

KO PS

Newsletter Spring 2026



A programme from
Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire
and
Capacity Buildings



KEEPING OLDER PEOPLE SAFE IN NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Welcome to the latest of our occasional newsletters which features community safety advice to help **Keep Older People Safe**. There's even more information online to expand on what you read here, but our intention is to start making you think more about ways you can keep yourself and others a bit safer.

www.keepingolderpeoplesafe.com

So, what is Community Safety?

To start with, this means **PERSONAL SAFETY**. Taking care when out and about or travelling. Do you carry a personal alarm? It's about keeping your belongings safe when out and about.

It also means protecting your **PROPERTY**, such as keeping your house secure, but also sheds, outbuildings, garages.

And protecting your **POSSESSIONS**: adequate insurance; logging or perhaps marking and registering your items of value. Specifically how do you protect your mobile phone from theft? Or your car or other vehicles.

But anyone can also be a victim of **SCAMS**, so we're keen to ensure everyone knows how to recognise scams, avoid them or report them.

We also promote good **FIRE SAFETY** around the home.

A key worry for many people is **ASB** (Anti-Social Behaviour). What is ASB? (What is not?). How do you report it or deal with it?

And what about the **ENVIRONMENT** where you live? Are there trip hazards? Street-lighting issues? Other issues that make you feel unsafe?

How do you **REPORT** issues? 999 and 101 of course. But what else can you report to the Police or to the Council? Do you know about Crimestoppers for example?

Don't feel victimised. There are services such as Affected By Crime and Victim Support to help you get support as a **VICTIM**.

And we also encourage preparation for **EMERGENCIES** before things like power cuts, floods, fire take place.

And then there are ways to feel safer such as being part of a **NETWORK**. This could be as simple as a social group, connecting to a community venue or being part of

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

And finally there are all the big issues that affect our communities: modern day slavery; county lines; terrorism and more. You might find it helpful to know what's going on.

All of these issues are Community Safety. We aim to help residents think a bit more about these topics and prepare and plan.

Online, VANEL have compiled a new index to all kinds of useful community safety resources:

www.nelwatch.org.uk/

communitysafety Or visit one of our Community Safety Information Hubs around the area to pick up various leaflets and guides. Or of course, simply contact an agency you might already know - whether that's the Police, Ward Councillors, your housing agency, your social group, Carers Support, your local community venue or anyone else. Hopefully they can help guide you to the right advice.

Prepare and stay safe.

Stay Safe

Our **Stay Safe booklets** are packed full of information about community safety - from scams; fire safety; emergency planning; weather planning; neighbourhood watch and much more. Available online at www.staysafenel.com or printed booklets can be found at community venues around North East Lincolnshire (or contact us at VANEL for a copy - 01472 231123, liz@vanel.org.uk, 82 Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 7DP.



Information Points

Our new Neighbourhood Watch Information Hubs are popping up around the area too. Grab a Stay Safe guide or other community safety leaflets from one of these stands.

Find them at:

- Big Local Community Hub, 82 Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes
- Laceby Stamford Centre
- Civic Centre Immingham
- Bert Boyden Immingham
- Salvation Army Cup of Joy Cafe, East Marsh
- YMCA Bradbury Cafe, East Marsh
- Sidedoor Church and Cafe, Nunthorpe

plus smaller points in Waltham Library and Pilgrim Shed Immingham.

More coming soon



Affected by Crime

Anyone affected by crime may have questions, worries or concerns. You may be victim or need to understand about the crime reporting process or simply be worried and concerned about a crime you witnessed. The Affected by Crime service covers all of Humberside. Call 0800 368 7586 or visit the useful website at www.affectedbycrime.com

Quick tips

Sign up to My Community Alert at www.mycommunityalert.co.uk.

North East Lincolnshire Council Adult Social Care Services have 01472 256 256 manned 24/7 if you're concerned about someone.

Report crime anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org or locally use www.humberside.police.uk/ro/report as an alternative to 101

BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST FRAUD



UK
FINANCE



Beware of cold calling phone calls

A phone call out of the blue from someone you don't know is commonly a scam. It might be genuine (but still irritating), but make sure you think how you will react so that you're not met off-guard and at risk of being scammed.

Common types of phone call scams include:

Bank scams - your bank will never ask your PIN or ask for your card to be collected by a courier!

Undercover police scams - the Police will never approach you out of the blue to be 'part of an investigation'. Call 101 to double check or report it

Computer or mobile phone repair scams - never put anything on your device just because someone on the phone says so

HMRC scams - they will never ask for details out of the blue. Genuine approaches would be by letter

Council Tax scams - rebates will never come over the phone

Compensation calls (from that car accident you never had)

Texts with fake links - never click on links you get in texts from someone unknown

Telephone Preference Service scams - this service is free, so don't follow up if anyone asks for a fee

Pension or debt management offers or sales and investment offers - don't follow up on calls like this. Do your own research instead.

Phone contract scam calls - if

you need to change your phone contracts contact the company (O2, Three etc) directly. Don't respond to 'offers' over the phone

Amazon scam calls - again, visit Amazon direct rather than responding to the idea of great offers

And of course, any call can come from a **fake caller ID** pretending to be someone you know. Be careful. Just because someone knows your basic details doesn't mean they're legitimate. These details could include your name, address, your mother's maiden name and even your Direct Debits.

Protect yourself

Say no. Hang up. Forward scam texts to 7726. Use a call blocking service. Use caller ID. Use an answerphone to screen calls and only call back numbers you know. Never click on links within texts. Never give out banking details or personal information over the phone. Assume it's a scam unless you're specifically expecting a call.

If it goes wrong

Contact your bank directly (details on your bank card) if you need to put a stop on your card or transactions.

Call 101 for the Police.

Contact **ReportFraud** www.reportfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040.

Check our Stay Safe guides for even more useful advice.



Keeping Older People Safe (KOPS)

KOPS is a programme led by **VANEL** and **Capacity Buildings** which brings together various projects; uses various sources of funding; connects different partners; runs events and shares information - all with the aim to help residents think more carefully about their own safety (and the safety of others around them) and to know how to take practical steps to be safe. We have a website at www.keepingolderpeoplesafe.com

If you're online, you might want to sign up for our e-newsletter 'weeknotes' which comes out every few weeks to share current news and information related to community safety topics relevant to North East Lincolnshire. Or visit www.nelwatch.org.uk/neighbourstogether for ideas on connecting with other people and groups.

Part of the support for KOPS and for this newsletter is thanks to the **East Coast Community Fund**.

Contact Karl Elliott at VANEL for further information on KOPS or about anything in this newsletter. karl@vanel.org.uk 07936 415804 www.nelwatch.org.uk

Fire Safety Checks

Hopefully your home doesn't have too many fire risks. But isn't it worth checking? Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) have a detailed online home safety website that allows you to answer questions about every room in your house and you'll then get an immediate report on whether there is anything you need to be changing to make your home safer. Visit www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc or have someone help you to do the check for your own peace of mind. If the report identified issues and determines you are eligible, then you might get referred for a home safety visit. If you can't do the check online or are worried about your safety, please call HFRS on 0300 3038242 and leave your details so that they can contact you to determine your eligibility and arrange a home visit if appropriate.

Community Safety

Visit our website at www.nelwatch.org.uk/communitysafety to find out much, much more about all kinds of community safety issues and to get signposted to resources that can help you be proactive about community safety.

Neighbourhood Watch

Being part of a group can bring peace of mind. Neighbours can watch out for each other, report crime quicker, get advice from your local Policing team and more. Ask around in your street or area and see if there is already a group or if there are other people interested in coming together to start and run a group. It's not complex to get a group up and running - it just needs neighbours to agree to help each other. Contact Karl as below if you are interested.

